

Verdict of Coroner's Jury.

In the Matter of the Coroner's Inquest Upon the Body of

Tomas Del Valle

, Deceased,

State of California,

County of Santa Barbara } ss.

We, the undersigned, having been on this *tenth* day of *July* 1900, duly summoned, empaneled and sworn as a Jury of Inquest upon the body of said deceased, and having heard the testimony of witnesses and viewed the body of said deceased, after due deliberation hereby render this our verdict, to wit:

That the deceased was a male, aged about _____ years, was *un* married, was a native of *California* and of *American* nationality. That at the date of death, deceased was a resident of the County of *Santa Barbara*, State of California.

That the deceased came to his death *off Santa Cruz Island* said County of Santa Barbara, on or about the *eighth* day of *July* 1900, from the following cause, to wit:
Accidente Arroyo

D. M. Kelly

Foreman.

G. Robson
W. M. Morris
John A. Raittel
Le. Berzomico
W. M. Mearns
J. Cotton
E. M. Burke

Dated,

July 10

1900

R. M. Ruiz

Coroner.

Proceeding and Testimony.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

County of Santa Barbara.

In the Matter of the Coroner's Inquest Upon the Body of
Del Valle

Thomas

Deceased.

The Coroner's inquest on the body of said deceased was held at *6 N. 5th St.*
mother's Funeral Parlor in said County and State, on the
day of _____, 190____, before me *A. M. Ruiz*
Coroner of said County. A jury of inquest was duly summoned, empaneled and
sworn. The body of said deceased was exhibited to said jury and the witnesses
hereinafter named.

Witnesses were subpoenaed, sworn and examined, the testimony of said
witnesses being reduced to writing and signed by said witnesses, and is as follows,
to wit:

being

sworn as a witness, testified as follows, to wit:

State of California,

COUNTY OF Santa Barbara

ss CORONER'S SUMMONS OF JUROR
P. C., Sec. 1520

The People of the State of California send Greeting to

Ed M. Bink, J. A. Raithel, S. O. Kelly,
C. H. Morris, Ed. Mansfield, George Robson,
Louis Razzonico, P. Bottman

We Command You, that all and singular business and excuses being laid
aside, you be and appear before the undersigned, Coroner of the County of
Santa Barbara State of California, at C. M. E. Hermotta
on the 10th day of July 1910, at 4:30 o'clock P.M.,
then and there to serve as a Juror in a certain inquisition now pending before said
Coroner, and herein fail not, or answer the contrary at your peril.

Given under my hand, this 10th day of July A. D., 1910.

A. M. Ruiz
Coroner, County of Santa Barbara.

State of California,

COUNTY OF Santa Barbara

SS

CORONER'S SUBPOENA.

P. C., Chap. 1000

The People of the State of California send Greeting to

Mrs. E. V. Whitcomb B Whitcomb

We Command You, that, all and singular business and excuses being laid aside, you be and appear before the undersigned, Coroner of the Santa Barbara County of Santa Barbara State of California, at 6 M & 5 minutes on the July day of 1910, at o'clock M., then and there to testify and give evidence in a certain inquisition now pending before said Coroner, and herein fail not, or answer the contrary at your peril.

Given under my hand, this July day of July A. D., 1910.

A. M. Ruy
Coroner, County of Santa Barbara.

Before A. M. RUIZ, Esquire, the Coroner.

In the Matter of the Inquisition

Upon the Body of

THOMAS DEL VALLE,

Deceased.

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT

Upon Sunday, July 10th, 1910, at 4:30 o'clock p. m.,
at the undertaking parlors of the McDermott Undertaking
Co., 442 State St., in the city of Santa Barbara, county of
Santa Barbara, state of California, an inquest was held over
the remains of Thomas Del Valle, deceased, before A. M.
RUIZ, Esquire, Coroner of the County of Santa Barbara,
State of California, and before the following named jurors:
Ed. M. Burke, J. A. Baithel, D. O. Kelly, C. N. Morris,
Ed. Manfred, George Robson, Louis Rezonico, and P. Cottman.

The Following proceedings were had:

1 TESTIMONY
2 MRS. EVA^{-of-} V. WHITCOMB,
3 A Witness called and Sworn By the Coroner.

4
5 EXAMINATION BY MR RUIZ: Q State your name in full.

6 A Mrs Eva V. Whitcomb.

7 Q Where do you live, Mrs Whitcomb?

8 A In Santa Barbara for three years. I am a native of
9 Chicago, Ill.

10 Q Whereabouts do you live?

11 A 1724 Olive Avenue.

12 Q Mrs Whitcomb, were you acquainted with the young man,
13 Del Valle, in his lifetime?

14 A I don't understand.

15 Q Were you acquainted with Del Valle in his lifetime --
16 did you know him?

17 A Oh, I knew him quite well. I have known him for
18 about six months, and he's been at our house, as a visitor,
19 often.

20 Q When did you see him alive the last time?

21 A When the boat overturned he was alive. And I left the
22 boat about five minutes after the boat overturned. That was
23 the last time.

24 Q Whereabouts did this boat capsize -- what island?

25 A At Santa Cruz Island, off the coast.

26 Q When did this happen?

27 A To the best of my knowledge, it happened about 10:25
28 in the morning. One of the boy's watches stopped at that
29 time.

1 Q That was on the 8th -- last Friday, was it?

2 A It was last Friday.

3 Q Who were the parties that were in the boat with you?
4 Do you remember the names?

5 A Eugene Whitcomb, and there was Mrs White and Isabel
6 Pierce, Miss Lober, Louis Whitcomb, Thomas Del Valle,
7 James Clark, and myself.

8 Q Eight of you?

9 A Eight, yes.

10 Q You took the boat from the shore there, of the island?

11 A Yes.

12 Q Whose boat was it?

13 A Mr Stevens. A three-oared boat.

14 Q Did any of the parties know how to manage the boat,
15 that went out?

16 A All knew how to row, and all how to swim except Miss
17 Lober. She was a beginner.

18 Q Can you tell how the boat capsized?

19 A To the best of my knowledge, the water was choppy, but
20 no white caps. Everything looked perfectly safe outside.
21 Then the ground swells came up. With the first one,
22 the boat rode it in a right position, and the second one the
23 boat rode in a right position, but the ground swell broke on
24 top, and twisted the boat. The boat was out of the water,
25 to the best of my knowledge, both in front and back, and it
26 brought it in at right angles with the waves. But when
27 the waves broke, it twisted the boat right around, and
28 spun it around, and the boat fell over, the way the wave
29 broke. When the wave broke, the boat fell this way.

1 Q And you all fell, naturally, off the boat?

2 A Yes.

3 Q And went under the boat, did you not?

4 A Fell to the left. Three of us were under the boat.
5 I was under the boat, and I believe Miss Lober was under
6 the boat, and Mrs White. I don't know how many more, but
7 we all swam out, and got from under the boat, and held on
8 to the overturned boat.

9 Q How many of you were holding by the boat, do you
10 remember?

11 A All of us at first.

12 Q And young Del Valle also held by the boat?

13 A Yes, we were all safe at that time.

14 Q Was assistance given to you -- to help you?

15 A Not at all.

16 Q Wasn't there anybody on shore that could swim?

17 A Not at all. It was away from any harbor,
18 and there was no sail or boat in sight.

19 Q ^{What} ~~Was~~ is the name of the harbor that you were in?

20 A The harbor we were camping at?

21 Q Yes?

22 A The harbor we were camping at was Valdez Harbor.

23 Q Then did you see the young lady that was drowned?
24 Was she holding to the boat at the same time?

25 A Yes sir.

26 Q And how did the rest of them do -- swim to the
27 shore?

28 A After a time--- The first five minutes I don't
29 know what occurred, because I couldn't hold to the boat on

1 account of being lame in my left arm. I was disabled
2 so I couldn't hold to the boat, and the boat--- one of
3 our party was very much frightened, and kept turning the
4 boat over and over, so I couldn't hold onto it with one
5 hand. So then someone -- I believe it was my son -- gave
6 me an oar, and told me to use the oar instead of my arm.
7 I don't know who it was that gave me the oar, but I think
8 it was my son, because he swam immediately to where
9 I was, and asked me if I was all right. Then I took an
10 oar, and as I couldn't hold to the boat, I lay flat on the
11 water, and put the oar under my head. My daughter was
12 already far out, with an oar also, and I wanted to be
13 with her, so I went out to her.

14 Q How far was that from the shore?

15 A To the best of my knowledge of distances, it must
16 have been about a mile. It was outside of the needles --
17 a safe distance outside of the needles.

18 Q You did not see Del valle after that any more, did
19 you?

20 A I left them all on the boat -- everyone of them
21 safe -- three boys and three girls.

22 Q They were on the boat already when you left?

23 A Not on the boat, but hanging to the boat. They were
24 all alive, and all had a fair chance of getting to shore
25 safely if they stuck to the boat. My daughter and I
26 left. I thought it better for all, and I left and went
27 with my daughter, and we went alone.

28 Q You and your daughter were the first ones out?

29 A We were the first ones that left the boat.

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1 Q But not the first ones to get to the shore?

2 A I believe we were, to the best of my knowledge.
3 According to the way the sun set -- or was in the heavens,
4 we were in the water two hours, and we made a landing near
5 a spur of rock, with mussels on it. The mussels were
6 sharp, but we held on, and got onto the rocks, and from
7 the rocks we got to a little harbor, where there was some
8 sand. We stayed there until we were rested; then
9 we tried to get to the camp. It was a very hard climb,
10 and we were half way up the top of the canon, on one of
11 the goat trails, when I saw my son coming in the bay,
12 with James Clark and himself in the boat, with one oar.
13 Then they discovered the oars we had, and they picked
14 them up, and had enough then to get the boat around.
15 Then I called to them, and after I called to them they told
16 us to wait; that they would come back for us. They left us
17 and we gradually came down, and went down on the little
18 beach. They came back in about an hour or so, and picked
19 up us. We climbed out on the rocks again and got into
20 the boat, because the boat was too large to beach. We
21 got into the boat, and Mrs White was in the boat, and Miss
22 Lober, Mr Clark and my son.

23 Q And Miss Pierce and Del Valle were not there at
24 that time? You didn't see them?

25 A I didn't see them after I left the boat.

26 Q What time was this, did you say -- about ten o'clock
27 in the morning?

28 A To the best of my knowledge, about 10:25, because
29

1 Mr Clark's watch -- he showed me later -- had stopped
2 at 10:25. He said it was when the water entered the case,
3 and the face was smashed in. It seemed as though that
4 was pretty good evidence that it was 10:25.

5 Q Do you know what the men did after they came to the
6 shore? Did they hunt up Del Valle? Where was Del Valle --
7 where did they find him, do you know?

8 A I only know by hearsay.

9 Q Do you know who found him?

10 A My son, and Miss Lober and Mrs White were together
11 at that time, and young Thomas was in the boat. My son
12 had pulled him into the boat -- helped him in, and he lay
13 in the boat, and he kept slipping down into the water.
14 The boat was level with the water, and my son pulled him
15 up, and kept pulling him up, but he would slip down again,
16 though he was partly conscious. Mrs White was delirious,
17 and Miss Lober was getting very weak, so my son had to
18 hold onto the two women. I don't know, except from what
19 they have told me about this part of it; this is the way
20 it was told by my son. Mr Clark left the boat and
21 swam to the shore, but my son stayed with the women
22 and with young Del Valle, and had tried to put him upon the
23 gunwale of the boat, but he wouldn't stay. He had
24 turned his attention to the women -- they were still
25 in the water, outside of the boat; then he got nearly to
26 shore, and he swam to shore with the two women, and pulled
27 them up on the rocks. Then he got out to the boat soon,
28 and with others got the boat to shore, and got Del Valle
29 out, and tried to resuscitate him. Mrs White was screaming.

1 and he knew she was alive all right, and he tried to resusci-
2 tate Thomas, but couldn't. So they righted the boat, and
3 found an oar in the bottom of the boat, and he took the oar
4 and went down the coast and found James Clark on a rock,
5 and brought him back, and the two of them worked over
6 him. Its very hard to tell, when you were not there, Mr
7 Ruiz.

8 Q Of course, we only want as near as you can tell, what
9 you know about the case.

10 A Just from what I have heard different people detail,
11 and they might tell it differently. Then Mr Clark and
12 Eugene worked over Thomas some more, but after working
13 an hour they had to give it up. Then Eugene and Clark
14 got into the boat and came down, hunting for Lois and
15 myself. They knew Isabel was gone, and they hunted for
16 Lois and myself, and found us in this place. That's
17 the best of my knowledge of what happened.

18 Q Was that the first time -- that Friday -- that your
19 party went out in the boat?

20 A No.

21 Q You had been out a great many times before?

22 A Oh, yes. Outside of the bay we always used the
23 large boat, but never went out unless it was reasonably
24 calm -- that is, no white caps, no wind or disturbance.
25 Two years ago we used this same boat to carry ten passengers,
26 a three-oared boat.

27 Q This time there were eight?

28 A This time there were eight, in the same boat.

29 Q How many days were you out there when this thing

1 happened, more or less?

2 A Six days. We left on Saturday morning, and it was
3 the following morning that this disaster occurred.

4 Q That's all you know about it?

5 A That's all I know, Mr Ruiz.

6 Q Do the jurors want to ask any questions of the
7 witness.

8 (No response)
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1 TESTIMONY
2 -of-
3 EUGENE JOSEPH WHITCOMB,
4 A Witness Called and Sworn By the Coroner.

5 EXAMINATION By Mr RUIZ: Q What is your name in full, please?

6 A Eugene Joseph Whitcomb.

7 Q Where do you reside?

8 A I reside with my mother, in Santa Barbara.

9 Q On Olive street?

10 A Mother lives at 1724, I believe it is, Olive avenue.

11 Q Olive Avenue?

12 A Yes sir.

13 Q What is your occupation?

14 A I am going to school.

15 Q Student?

16 A Yes.

17 Q How old are you?

18 A I will be twenty in a few days.

19 Q Were you acquainted with the deceased, in the other
20 room, Del Valle, in his lifetime?

21 A I think I met the boy, maybe three or four times;
22 that was all. I was very pleased with him.

23 Q He was one of the party that went over to the Islands
24 out camping?

25 A Yes.

26 Q Were you in the boat that capsized Friday morning?

27 A Yes, I was in the boat.

28 Q I think you had better state to the jurors what
29 happened, as far as you can remember, and the time. That

1 will be the best way, and we will get through quicker.

2 A Well, we started---. I do not know exactly when
3 we started; I presume between half past-- well,
4 nearer ten o'clock, I expect, from the way the boy's
5 watch stopped. It was nearly half past ten. When we
6 started we rowed about a quarter of a mile up off from
7 the rock. I was steering the boat. I was rather
8 nervous, and the boat was rather top-heavy. We had
9 attained our first leg of the course from one point to
10 another point, and were starting down the waves. I thought
11 we were comparatively safe then, and I was watching for
12 heavy waves. My sister called my attention to it --
13 that we were going to get went over the stern.

14 Q Where is your sister now?

15 A Present here. She called my attention to it --
16 that I was going to get water over the stern. I did not
17 pay any attention to getting wet; I watched the waves,
18 and I saw what the fishermen over there call a blind
19 breaker; its a ground swell, exceedingly high and steep.
20 I don't agree with my mother's theory about the turning
21 over of the boat. We rushed down the side of it. It
22 was so steep, and the boat being heavily laden, that we
23 wheeled sideways, and the breaker was so steep it
24 shifted the weight of the boat, and turned it completely,
25 throwing everyone headlong. I tried to mount the gunwale
26 but failed. Then I swam to the bow of the boat and sustained
27 mother the best I could, she being disabled on account of
28 of her left arm. Then I swam back to the stern of the
29 boat, and took charge of the stern of the boat as

1 best I could, and kept the boat pointed down the waves,
2 so it wouldn't cause the breakers to break over us. We
3 held to the boat quite awhile. Mother swam away -- got
4 two oars and went away from the boat, and my sister got
5 several other oars, and gave them to her, to put them
6 underneath her and help her. She called to me and
7 said mother was losing courage, and I told my mother to
8 use her religious beliefs, and such things, and to act
9 on them; and she did. The last I saw of them
10 they were progressing very rapidly toward the bay, or
11 beach of stones. Its to the right of the arch rock. And
12 by that time, why, the condition among the parties was
13 getting rather unsettled. I kept the boat headed
14 the best I could, and I felt that we were moving
15 that way, and I kept the boat headed the best I could
16 under the circumstances. It tried to urge it by swimming and
17 pushing it into the kelp. We were quite a way off, and I
18 heard some talk of disturbance. The boys started to
19 holler for help, but I didn't think there was one chance in
20 a thousand of it ever doing any good -- no use wasting
21 breath doing it. But one of the boys was quite lusty
22 with his lungs -- louder than I could ever be, and I
23 decided he was better than any of them, and let him do
24 the hollering, and some of the ladies took it up. I
25 did not pay any attention. I paid attention to my boat
26 the best I could, and got it headed right. We managed to
27 go to the left of the rock -- drift that way, and when we
28 were quite a way out from it, Miss Isabel Pierce took it
29 into her head that she could swim around to the back of the

1 rock and climb up on it. But it seems that the hole--
2 that's the reason its gets its name Arch Rock, - it has
3 a hole through the middle, down to the water level. She
4 undoubtedly must have swam there and got caught by the
5 stream -- the awful force of the water going through
6 this hole. I hollered to her. She got near the rock,
7 and hollered for help, and I told her to swim for some kelp
8 she was near, and lay out flat on it. That was all the
9 instruction I could get to her, -- or I did get to her,
10 and I kept the boat guided the best I could that way. It
11 seemed to move-- it didn't move very rapidly, but it
12 moved, nevertheless. And about that time Mr Clark, one
13 of the boys, became rather disturbed about his own
14 personal welfare, and wanted to get one of the ladies
15 to swim ashore with him. It seems that Mrs Dr White --
16 she couldn't get one boot off -- she had one shoe off,
17 and the other she couldn't get off. So he struck out
18 for himself, and tried to swim up to the face of the rock
19 toward the side from which the sea was coming, and tried to
20 climb it, but it seems that the back-wash from the rock --
21 the breakers, washed him back everytime; he couldn't make it.
22 So he swam around to the right of the rock and made the
23 shore. After--- I heard from him -- after quite a
24 difficult struggle through the kelp he got on the rock.
25 He claims he went down twice. He was a very good
26 swimmer, but no oarsman. In the meantime, the boat
27 drifted down by the rock, leaving Miss Lober, Mrs White,
28 Del Valle and myself, still hanging onto the boat. Miss
29 Isabel Pierce having disappeared, I should judge being

1 swept away by this awful gush of water through the arch
2 of the rock. One of the boys was caught in there with a
3 row boat, so I should judge it is very dangerous in there.
4 We kept on moving, very steadily and slowly, down the waves,
5 and after we got straight of it, the current and wash of
6 the waves against this big arch rock swung us out toward
7 the sea a little bit -- swung us within forty or fifty
8 feet of this huge rock, and kept us from being dashed
9 against it. I saw it was very dangerous, when we got
10 near it. It was impossible to do anything with it, so I
11 gave up all hope of getting on the rock. Thomas Del
12 Valle was rather --- he didn't conduct himself as he
13 should of quite, but we encouraged him, and the ladies
14 helped him - as much as we were able to. I hung onto
15 him, across the boat, but he still insisted on going down
16 into the water. He wouldn't struggle for himself.

17 Q Del Valle?

18 A Yes. We allowed him to do things that none of us
19 attempted to do. We allowed him to climb upon the
20 boat and get as high as he could out of the water. He
21 moaned and cried all the time, and said that he was surely
22 going to drown, and we told him he must not drown; we
23 appealed to him all we could. But the boat got into the
24 back-chops on the left of the rock, and swung up into
25 the kelp. We crossed the first piece of kelp, and the
26 kelp smoothed the waves. We were very much encouraged
27 by this, and we crossed into the larger bay, and we
28 righted the boat and got the ladies in. Then Del Valle
29 climbed in, throwing the boat on top of the ladies. I didn't

1 know hardly what to do. Miss Lober was thrown away from the
2 boat, and Del Valle seized Miss Lober, and she came up in
3 some mysterious way -- I don't know how -- came up on the
4 other side of the boat. It was upside-down. I managed
5 to grab him, pulling the boat. Just before this I pulled
6 him to the boat. Once he got behind -- lost hold of the
7 boat, and strayed off about ten or twelve feet, to the
8 rear of the craft, and I managed to pull him onto it. He
9 hung on awhile, but he didn't seem to regain his presence of
10 mind. We did the best we could to make him stay with
11 us. The second time we righted the boat in the kelp, and
12 I threw out a piece of flooring, and Del Valle pulled
13 himself half way over the gunwale, just up to his chest.
14 I grabbed him by his shirt and collar, and pulled him the rest
15 of the way over. The ladies managed to get into the
16 boat all right. I managed the best I was able to, to keep
17 the boat righted. We were extremely cold by this time,
18 and Mrs White got very delirious, but with the excellent
19 help of Miss Lober I managed to be free of her all the
20 time, and used the oar I found in the boat, wedged under-
21 neath the seat. I moved myself from the kelp, and after
22 quite a tussle we got through the kelp, Miss Lober ----
23 and Mrs White being a little bit delirious, she
24 started to holler and make an awful racket. Miss Lober
25 managed to hold onto her, although she was rather unconscious
26 and delirious herself. Thomas, in the meanwhile, was
27 in the front of the boat. I tried to tie his head onto
28 the forward portion of the deck, forward of the mast --
29 where the mast is supposed to be placed. I tried to get

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1 up there to do it, and sat in the second seat, which was
2 very dangerous to the ladies in the rear. I almost
3 tipped the boat myself. I tried to oar in there, but my
4 fingers were so that I couldn't use them hardly. But
5 Del Valle wouldn't hold on for himself. It was very simple
6 and he could easily have saved himself -- no trick
7 at all. After awhile I gave up trying to save Del Valle,
8 and he gave up too, being unconscious about that time
9 entirely. I saw that I couldn't help him, and I had
10 to put all my attention to getting the boat through the
11 kelp, and getting the ladies to a place of safety. I got
12 there after difficulty, and I dragged him up on the
13 larger rocks. After getting in amongst the rocks,
14 I came to the largest, and I pulled him up there. Mrs
15 White was delirious, and didn't know what she was doing.
16 She didn't know how she got there, afterward. Miss Leber
17 had her presence of mind, and held Mrs White there. I
18 proceeded on to shore, and after resting a few minutes, I
19 climbed along the rocks and got the boat again. It had
20 drifted away, - and I got the boat and dumped as much
21 water as I could -- was able to, out of it, and put out
22 into the kelp again, - the boat half full of water -
23 leaving Thomas' body on the shore. Then I went
24 down to get James Clark, and we pulled the boat onto the
25 beach, where he was, and dumped all the water out of it.
26 Then we managed to row along with one oar, back to where
27 Thomas was, and we paid as much attention to him as we could,
28 and we did it very carefully, and put him in the boat with
29 his head down, in such a position that if he did have much

1 water in him it would run out very soon. Then we started
2 to look up some other cars. After that we went out to
3 the arch rock, and looked for Miss Pierce, but couldn't see
4 her. The progress with one car was very slow. We couldn't
5 see her at all. Then, from there we went up to this
6 place, where I expected my mother had landed, and where
7 I expected to find an car. After examining all through
8 the edge of the kelp, I found the cars, and took all
9 aboard, and rowed the boat back. I was pretty weak, and
10 Clark was a little bit stronger than I was, and we managed
11 to get back to where the ladies were. We put them in the
12 boat, and instructed them to row, but it was rather
13 difficult in the condition they were. They were very
14 cold, and that was to warm them up, if possible, for they
15 hollered for a fire, and everything. But we started them
16 rowing, and they kind of warmed up, and we rowed down the
17 coast a way, looking as we went through the kelp, but we
18 struck another rock, - a submerged rock. I took the
19 rock as being some fish, it being deep water, and in a
20 perfectly open place. We didn't see any grass,, and
21 we took it for a fish, but we lodged upon the rock, and it
22 filled the boat half full of water. We managed to get
23 back to land, some way or another, and empty the boat
24 again. We took Thomas out of the boat there, and put
25 him underneath the cliffs in a shady place, and covered him
26 with kelp, and then put out again with the ladies, and
27 went back in mother's harbor, where she was after she
28 heard us from the cliffs.-- I had given the news
29 that we couldn't find Isabel, but had Thomas, but that he

1 had passed. We immediately started for the harbor, and
2 after difficulty we landed on the rocks. Mrs White was
3 quite delirious. We managed to get to the shore all
4 right, and Mr Clark and I tied the row boat, and came in
5 in the small skiff. That's all there is to my statement,
6 and that's a full knowledge of the affair, as far as I
7 know. I may have made it a little bit longer than I
8 intended.

9 Q As far as your remember?

10 A As far as I can think.

11 Q Do I understand you right? When you pulled the
12 body of Del Valle to the boat, he was drowned already?

13 A I think that when I pulled him into the boat that he
14 was gone then. I thought it would be a good thing
15 to take a chance on it, and to tie him up, if I could,
16 with his head out of the water, and then maybe we could
17 get a rock, and lean him over the edge of the rock, with
18 his head down until I could get some help. That was my
19 idea, but when I couldn't get him on the deck I gave up
20 doing anything for him. I did the best I could with
21 the rest of my party.

22 Q All you heard him say was that he was going to be
23 drowned?

24 A Yes, he gave up long before he should have -- long
25 before anyone else thought of doing so.

26 Q Have the jurors any questions?

27
28 By A JUROR: Q He never was out of your sight at all --
29 never went under?

1 A Never out of sight,

2 Q You landed him on shore?

3 A I landed him on shore.

4 Q You think he died in the boat -- getting into it?

5 A I think he died just about as I was pulling him in --
6 into the boat.

7 Q Was it from drowning , or perishing from cold?

8 A I think mostly excitement, as much as anything. I am
9 not sure; I don't know.

10 Q How deep was the water where you turned over?

11 A I don't know how deep the water was there, but the
12 kelp floats--- I was talking on the theory of kelp,
13 and I understand that kelp will grow in 120 feet of water.

14 Q The water broke outside of that enough to turn the
15 boat over?

16 A The water never breaks in the kelp.

17 Q Where the boat turned over was beyond the kelp?

18 A The water never broke, but it was a swell -- what the
19 fishermen call a blind breaker. The fisherman I was
20 talking to over at Fry's harbor called it a blind
21 breaker. They are very dangerous to any craft; they
22 nearly swamped the Gussie M.

23 Q How did you go?

24 A We coasted down the side of the breakers, as I remember,
25 and some way or other turned sideways, and the weight
26 shifted to the lower side, and the weight being thrown
27 there, and the water being on the upper side -- the light
28 side, of course it threw the boat over very easily.

29 Q Your mother swam clear to shore?

1 A Mother and sister got to shore. I wasn't nervous for
2 them at all. I was more nervous for the rest of the party.
3 I had confidence in what they could do -- I knew just about
4 what they could do.

5
6 By ANOTHER JUROR: Was the boat turned over on the
7 west side or the east side?

8 A West or east -- what do you mean? What side of the
9 island?

10 Q Yes?

11 A I was on this side of the island. I think the island
12 stands pretty nearly due north and south.

13 Q Yes, I believe it does. Between us -- Miss Lober
14 and I -- we managed to pull Del Valle on board the
15 boat eight or nine times -- between us. Miss Lober managed
16 to help him too. I saw Miss Lober again and again
17 throw out her foot to him, and he would grab it, and he
18 would hang onto her, and pretty nearly drag her off.

1 Before A. M. RUIZ, Esquire, the Coroner.
2
3

4 In the Matter of the Inquisition
5 Upon the Body of
6 THOMAS DEL VALLE,
7 Deceased.
8
9
10
11

12 I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing pages, numbered
13 from one (1) to twenty (20), both inclusive, contain a
14 full, true and correct statement of the testimony and
15 proceedings had upon the inquisition over the remains of
16 the above decedent, the same having been by me first taken
17 down in shorthand writing at said inquest, and afterward
18 by me personally reduced to typewriting.
19

20 Dated, Santa Barbara, Cal., July 20th, 1910.

21 *H A Dewing*
22 Reporter sworn by the Coroner.
23
24
25
26
27
28
29

HENRY A. DEWING
OFFICIAL REPORTER SUPERIOR COURT
SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA